

BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING
PINE BLUFF

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2001

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University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
1890 Research Building Auditorium
Corner of Spruce and Oliver Streets
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

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2 P R O C E E D I N G S

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4 THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2001

5 10:31 a.m.

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7 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: Ladies and
8 gentlemen, good morning, and thank you
9 very much for coming. We want to get
10 under way. And apparently there was --
11 at least I am told, there was air traffic
12 on the ground in Little Rock for the delay for
13 in getting here. As you may know, the Board of
14 Apportionment moves on from here to El Dorado,
15 and then on to Hope. And because I am going to
16 be going back to Little Rock to hopefully bail
17 Janet out this afternoon, I drove down this
18 morning. So, proof positive, when you
19 absolutely, positively have to be there, just
20 drive.

21 At this time, I would like to
22 officially call this meeting of the Board
23 of Apportionment to order, and thank all of you
24 for coming for the purpose of public comments.
25 Many of you may be aware of the fact that the

1 Board of Apportionment is created by the
2 Constitution of Arkansas. Every two years after
3 the census is taken, the Governor, Attorney
4 General, and the Secretary of State form the
5 Board of Apportionment. Their job, then, is to
6 create legislative districts for both the House
7 and the Senate of the Arkansas
8 General Assembly.

9 The Constitution primary insists that we,
10 as close as possible, achieve one person, one
11 vote, meaning that there is people
12 representation in the House districts, as well
13 as in the Senate districts for each of the
14 respective bodies. And, of course, that is a
15 logical kind of conclusion.

16 It would be really nice if every
17 county and every municipality and all the areas
18 within the geographical boundaries, be they
19 rivers or creeks or major highways, all had
20 equal distribution of population, the job would
21 be very easy. Unfortunately, if you have
22 looked at Arkansas, driven around a little bit,
23 you know it is not quite that simple, and every
24 move on the checker board sort of has a
25 rippling effect, because it affects all the

1 other districts surrounding it.

2 None of us would claim this process
3 is perfect, in fact, it will be far from
4 perfect, because people are involved, and
5 therefore, there is no way it can make
6 everybody completely happy. But the goal
7 we have, even in this public hearing, is to get
8 input so that hopefully the decisions that are
9 ultimately made and the drawing up of the
10 districts is as fair to as many people as is
11 humanly possible, and that we can somehow come
12 up with a plan that satisfies, we would love to
13 say everyone, but certainly as many people as
14 is possible in achieving some of the mandates,
15 not only for one person, one rule, but also
16 trying to keep whole communities, counties
17 whenever possible.

18 We have had some great ideas coming out of
19 the hearings, quite frankly. This is the
20 seventh hearing that we have had, and in
21 several of the ones that we have conducted, it
22 has been interesting that some of the ideas and
23 suggestions that came from people in those
24 communities really were very compelling, they
25 made perfect sense. And, you know, we are

1 going to do our best to try to incorporate it.

2 So, we are here today to take your
3 comments, as well. We will take opening
4 comments first from the Secretary of State and
5 the Attorney General. And then Butch Reeves,
6 who is the Chief Legal Counsel of the
7 Governor's office, will come to the podium and
8 he will, again, give you a little background of
9 the process that has been followed up to now,
10 and then we will open the floor for questions.

11 Let me just ask that if you have --
12 or excuse me, not questions, but comments, to
13 clarify that, because we may not be able to
14 have an answer to a question, but comments is
15 what we are looking for. What we do need you
16 to do if you have a comment is to come to the
17 microphone here on the floor. If -- ideally,
18 if you are going to ask some questions, just go
19 ahead and sort of cue up on the microphone,
20 that way, we will have the comments one after
21 the other and we won't have to wait for someone
22 to get up here on the microphone.

23 We do ask you to please state your
24 name, where you are from, and then make
25 any comment. We need that for the record. We

1 have a court reporter here who is taking
2 transcripts, and all the nice things that you
3 say about us will be published in a nicely
4 bound book and distributed to all citizens.
5 Anything unkind, your taxes will be raised and
6 your license fees will be greatly heightened.
7 So, just beware of those kind of notions.

8 At this time, I want to say a word of
9 thanks to our staff. All of the folks on the
10 staff of the Governor's office and Attorney
11 General's office, Secretary of State's office
12 really have done the heavy lifting in this.
13 And it would be unfair for us to not
14 acknowledge with a great deal of appreciation
15 the literally hundreds of hours that have been
16 put into this project by the staffs of each of
17 these offices. It is a task that, frankly,
18 would cause someone never to want to run for
19 one of these three constitutional offices
20 during the census period, and to make sure that
21 you came in like in the '02 frame.

22 We will pass that on to the future people
23 running for office, all of us will
24 be terminated out of our positions within the
25 next decade. So, I would certainly recommend

1 that the person maybe think about running the
2 next cycle after this one, because it is a
3 very, very tough task. But the staff of each of
4 these groups has done a terrific job, and we
5 are here today to take your comments.

6 With that, I am going to ask Secretary of
7 State Sharon Priest and then Attorney General
8 Mark Pryor to make opening comments.

9 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Thank
10 you, Governor. Good morning.

11 AUDIENCE: Good morning.

12 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: I am
13 pleased to finally be here, and pleased that
14 all of you are here this morning to take part
15 in an activity that truly is democracy. What we
16 are seeing happen today and what we have seen
17 happen at the other hearings that we have had
18 has been an exercise in democracy. And it is
19 so important that you participate.

20 We want you to know that the lines
21 that are drawn and the draft maps that you see
22 before you are not carved in stone. They are
23 subject to change. In fact, we have already
24 probably seen in other cases, as the Governor
25 has already said, there have been places where

1 we have had good suggestions and I think we
2 will be able to make those changes. We don't
3 have a monopoly on good ideas, and we are
4 hopeful that some of the issues that you may
5 have, you may have suggestions where we can
6 change them. So, please know, we are open to
7 making changes on these maps.

8 The other thing that I would like to
9 say is, we had a good census, we grew by almost
10 14 percent, and that is a good thing, it is a
11 very good thing. It is good for revenue
12 turn-back funds for our state and for our
13 counties. So, you know, even though some areas
14 lost populations which caused some challenges
15 in terms of drawing districts, Senate districts
16 now had to be -- the ideal Senate district,
17 9,300 people more than the ideal Senate
18 district ten years ago. And House districts
19 grew by about 3,200 people.

20 So, if you are in an area where there was
21 a population loss, it gave -- it created a real
22 challenge for us to do that and do it in a
23 manner that was logical and fair, and made
24 those districts sort of square up and look
25 good. So, we have had some challenges, but we

1 think that you may have some suggestions that
2 will help us.

3 And the last thing I would like to say is,
4 the three of us are elected. It is our goal to
5 make as many people as happy as possible, not
6 the other way around. Thank you.

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you. I
8 wanted to thank you all for being here, and we
9 apologize for being late. There was a
10 nonmechanical problem on the plane, we never
11 really knew what it was, maybe it had to do
12 with a flight plan or something, and the pilots
13 had to get out and go back in and get some
14 things worked out, and we don't know all the
15 details of that, but we are sorry we are late.

16 We want to give special thanks to
17 UAPB, who are hosting this today, you have got
18 a great facility, all the great things that
19 they do here on this campus. We appreciate you
20 all. It is always great to be here and always
21 great to be a part of this great university
22 system.

23 We are really here to listen. It is like
24 what Sharon said. The most important word you
25 will see on any of these maps is the word

1 "draft". These are drafts, they are not
2 engraved in stone. We are here to take input.

3 These maps that you are seeing are actually,
4 what they really are is, they are a
5 recommendation of the staff to the
6 Apportionment Board.

7 The Apportionment Board really hasn't made
8 any decisions yet. But we are still in that
9 drafting and information-gathering stage. So,
10 we are here to listen today and we are here to
11 try to take any local considerations we can,
12 local concerns, we are going to try to listen
13 to those and factor those in on how the maps
14 should look.

15 We all three have individually, and
16 our staffs, if we added up the hours, it would
17 be hundreds or more hours of time than we have
18 spent talking to people and getting input from
19 people. And the other day, Brenda and Hank, I
20 probably shouldn't tell this story, but I will
21 go ahead and do it. The other day, I had
22 probably got enough input, if you know what I
23 mean. I had been talking to a lot of people
24 about this, and I decided to play a joke on one
25 of the state senators.

1 So, I called him up and I said, "Senator,"
2 I said "I have got some bad news." He said,
3 "What is that, Mark?" I said, "We have
4 eliminated your district." He said, "What?" I
5 said, "Yeah, we have eliminated your district."

6 I said, "You neighbor from the east came in,
7 and he sort of made his pitch and made his
8 argument, so we gave him half of your district.

9 And then your neighbor from the west came in
10 and he made his pitch, and we gave him the
11 other half of your district."

12 He said, "Mark, let me tell you about
13 those two guys." He said, "One of them,
14 the neighbor to the east, he is a shyster and
15 his dad before him was a shyster." He said,
16 "My neighbor to the west," he said, "He never
17 shows up at any of the meetings. I have got to
18 do all the voting for him, and he is just in
19 the Senate to line his own pockets." And I
20 thought, "Man, this conversation is not going
21 very well," you know.

22 So, I said, "Whoa, whoa, whoa." I
23 said, "Senator, Senator," I said, "I was just
24 kidding, I was just kidding. We
25 didn't eliminate your district. We drew it

1 exactly the way you wanted it. I think it is
2 going to be great, I think you are going to be
3 very, very pleased with it." And he said,
4 "Mark," he said, "how did you make me say that
5 about two of the dearest friends a man ever
6 had?"

7 But that is kind of how the process works.
8 It is emotional sometimes, and it
9 is understandable, because really what we are
10 talking about here is our democracy, and our --
11 as a people, our ability to be represented in
12 our state government. It is very important.
13 We all take it very seriously, I know I speak
14 for the Governor and the Secretary of State.
15 We take it very seriously. There is in the
16 State Constitution. We are the only state in
17 America that does it this way.

18 Most states, the legislature do it,
19 or possibly let some special commission
20 or something do it. By we are the only
21 one who has the chief executive officer,
22 the chief elections officer, and chief
23 legal officer sit down and try to draw
24 these districts. So, we are trying to do that
25 today, we appreciate your input. And with that,

1 I will turn it over to the Governor.

2 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABAY: Thank you very
3 much. At this time, I would like to introduce
4 Butch Reeves, who will come and begin talking
5 about the process and welcome your comments.

6 MR. OLAN REEVES: Thank you. We actually
7 started this process last fall. We came to
8 about 13 cities around the state, just the
9 staff, asked for comments, in some meetings we
10 had a lot of people, some meetings we had four
11 or five, on the front end, to say, "What do you
12 want, what do you want to change?" We got the
13 numbers in March and plugged them into the
14 computer. And since the third week of April,
15 Tim Humphries from Sharon's office and Larry
16 Crane from Mark Pryor's office, we have
17 been sitting at the Aegon building drawing
18 maps.

19 Many of you have been by there, many
20 of you have called, faxed, E-mailed, sent
21 suggestions. We have tried to listen to
22 all that and come up with some answers,
23 come up with solutions. But part of it has a
24 legal connotation, too. The United States
25 Constitution says one person, one vote. That

1 is the ultimate goal. That is why every House
2 district should have 26,734 people, or as close
3 to that as possible, every Senate district
4 should have 76,383, or as close to that as
5 possible, to get the one person, one vote.
6 There is a variance above and below, just a
7 little bit, but we have tried to stick to those
8 numbers.

9 In this particular area, it has been very
10 tough to keep the districts the way they have
11 been, because every county but two around here
12 lost population. You didn't lose a lot, but
13 when you didn't gain much and the state gained
14 over 13.7 percent overall, you really lost more
15 than 13.7, if you lost. So, that has been the
16 toughest challenge, I will say, for us to draw
17 the districts around Jefferson County, Grant,
18 Cleveland, Lincoln, Arkansas. Those were the
19 toughest, I will say, because of the loss of
20 population. So, we need to keep that in mind.

21 The Arkansas Constitution requires
22 that this Board's decision about the maps not
23 be arbitrary. That is really all it says.
24 That means, they had to have guidelines. What
25 guidelines did they use? They used guidelines

1 that are announced by the United States Supreme
2 Court in these types of cases. And those
3 roughly are, compactness, how close can we get
4 the district together. If you will look at
5 the statewide map, some districts cover huge,
6 more than one county. That is because you have
7 got to have them big enough to get 26,000 or
8 76,000 people in them.

9 Some districts in Northwest Arkansas
10 and Pulaski County are real small, because they
11 have more people to make it compact, that is
12 really what that means. Contiguity, that just
13 means that they touch, you can't have a part of
14 a district here and a part of a district here,
15 (indicating), they have to touch. Preservation
16 of political subdivisions, such as cities and
17 counties, unless it was impossible to do so, we
18 really tried to keep cities and counties whole,
19 if we could. If we couldn't, we tried to say,
20 "Which part of this county could be cut off to
21 go with this county that would make sense and
22 still touch and be compact?"

23 The other thing, the other criteria
24 we used were the preservation of communities of
25 interest. What do this people in this town

1 have in common with these people in this town
2 or this county or this part of the county?
3 Now, when we have got lots of rural areas and
4 medium-sized towns and little towns, that is a
5 little tougher to do when you have still got to
6 get one person, one vote in those districts.

7 So, the preservation of the cores of
8 existing districts, that is tough when you lose
9 population. We tried to do that as best we
10 could. That involved looking at where the
11 incumbent lives, and it is not drawing a
12 district for an incumbent, but you take them
13 into account. Now, next time, in the House, 53
14 House members will be term limited after '02.
15 So, these districts are going to go for ten
16 years, so we took that into account in trying
17 to draw these districts, with input of just
18 sheer numbers.

19 But when you start from the river,
20 the state border and go west, or when you start
21 from the north and go south, west and go east,
22 we have done it all ways, it doesn't make any
23 difference. We have kind of come to a
24 conclusion of how the districts ought to look.

25 So, after that, what you have to take into

1 account is compliance with Section Two of the
2 Voting Rights Act. And that is why some of the
3 district, especially in Jefferson County, look
4 the way they do, is because of the Voting
5 Rights Act.

6 Now, with that said, we would like
7 for someone to be first and give the Board your
8 comments about what you would like to see
9 changed or ask to be changed. So, who wants to
10 go first?

11 MR. T.J. ROWELL: Could I ask a question?

12 MR. OLAN REEVES: Yes, sir.

13 MR. T.J. ROWELL: I have a presentation,
14 and it would be more convenient for me if
15 I could come to the podium and do that, because
16 I have a visual aid, and I --

17 MR. OLAN REEVES: Okay.

18 MR. T.J. ROWELL: And I can't do it right
19 there.

20 MR. OLAN REEVES: Okay.

21 MR. T.J. ROWELL: I will be happy to go
22 first.

23 MR. OLAN REEVES: Sure. Go ahead.

24 MR. T.J. ROWELL: Can you kind of see
25 that? Should I move it? Is that better?

1 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: Either way is
2 fine.

3 MR. T.J. ROWELL: Thank you for the
4 opening remarks, and I agree with all of them.

5 I am going to remember that story about
6 the senator. My name is T.J. Rowell, I
7 live at 6300 Timber Lake Drive in Pine Bluff,
8 Arkansas. I want to thank Governor Huckabee
9 and Attorney General Pryor and Secretary Priest
10 for allowing me to be heard concerning the
11 proposed Representative District Number 18.

12 18, primarily affects where I live and
13 where my representative lives. Now, it is
14 obvious, as it has been pointed out, that the
15 population shift in our state from time to time
16 moves and it is necessary to make these
17 changes, as has been pointed out by the
18 Governor. And it is difficult locate
19 the boundaries in order to satisfy as many
20 people as possible. I understand that several
21 maps have been made, and remade. And the map I
22 have here is the one that has been recommended
23 by the staff that prepared it.

24 The new district would be made up of
25 approximately one-half of Mr. Bradford's

1 old district and the other half would be made
2 up of Mr. Taylor's old district. There have
3 been at least three plans that have been made
4 that includes both Mr. Taylor and Mr. Bradford.

5 Now, I have known both of these gentlemen for
6 many years. I knew both of them long before
7 they ever entered into politics. I have
8 supported each one of them in the past, and I
9 consider both of them to be my friend. Both
10 served on the City Council, and they have
11 served our community well.

12 I have worked with and for politicians for
13 almost 40 years right here in Pine Bluff,
14 Arkansas. I served as city engineer here
15 during the '50s -- through the '60s and '70s,
16 and recently retired as chief engineer of the
17 Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. I know
18 firsthand how the game is played. When I saw
19 this map with the recommended lines drawn, I
20 had to do a double-take. I couldn't believe
21 what I was seeing. It doesn't take a rocket
22 scientist to see what is going on here.

23 If you will note, if you orient the
24 map, this is Redfield, White Hall, Jefferson
25 County, Cleveland County line. Mr. Bradford

1 lives right here and Mr. Taylor lives right
2 here. He just built a new home here in our
3 neighborhood. (Indicating.) Someone very
4 carefully went around this house to put it in,
5 very carefully went around this house to put it
6 out. Now, that may be a coincidence. If it is
7 a coincidence, I must apologize for what I may
8 say here today.

9 The map -- the blue part of the map used
10 to be in Mr. Bradford's district, the red part
11 used to be in Mr. Taylor's district. When Mr.
12 Taylor first saw this map, he asked the staff
13 about this, and he said, "If you adopt this,
14 you are going to make me move from my house and
15 go down to Rison at my old home place, and I am
16 going to have to build a house down there if I
17 run in this new district." And guess what?
18 About three days later, another map showed up
19 and removed Mr. Taylor's old home place,
20 and also took out the City of Rison.
21 (Indicating.) And this is the map that
22 was finally recommended.

23 And again, this may be coincidental,
24 but it don't look that way to me. The City of
25 Rison, I have a copy of a letter from the mayor

1 and a resolution by the City Council that have
2 asked the Board of Apportionment to keep them
3 in that district. And if they do that, take
4 our representative out of here, he could move
5 down here to his old home place and he could
6 still run in that district.

7 This map, as it is presently drawn,
8 is an insult to the integrity of every voter
9 in my neighborhood. It is time that someone
10 stand up and let the people know that if
11 we don't care enough about the political
12 process to get involved, then we won't have a
13 say in matters such as this, and the powerful
14 politicians will dictate their wishes upon the
15 people. This is contrary to the American way.

16 I am here today because I feel very
17 strongly that undue influence has been used to
18 get these lines drawn where they are. Neither
19 one of these men should be railroaded out of
20 office without giving the voters the choice to
21 decide. If you choose this plan, then simply
22 put both of them in the district, and you let
23 us decide which one we want to represent us.
24 Don't just close one out without giving him an
25 opportunity.

1 I submit to you that it appears to me that
2 a strong effort has been made to eliminate my
3 representative without giving my neighbors and
4 me an opportunity to have a vote. In America,
5 we are to set examples for others to follow,
6 and not the other way around.

7 On July 21, an article appeared in the
8 Pine Bluff Commercial that said one of the
9 staff members who had been working on the maps
10 had been reassigned and that he would not be
11 working on the redistricting any longer. And
12 from some of the comments that this young man
13 had made, I congratulate Secretary Priest for
14 taking that action. But he did say something
15 in an earlier article that I agree with, and I
16 trust that the panel will agree with. And his
17 comment was as follows, and I quote, "I can
18 tell you for a fact that Sharon Priest is
19 committed to making the redistricting process
20 as fair and equitable as possible."

21 I trust that this is the position that you
22 all will take when making your final decision.

23 In closing, let me say that I appreciate you
24 for coming to our city and giving the voters an
25 opportunity to be heard. As you travel around

1 this great state of ours, I trust that you will
2 not be approached or threatened by any powerful
3 politicians who would lead you to believe that
4 if you don't draw the lines where he or she
5 wants them, that they would oppose you in your
6 future endeavors.

7 Should you choose to adopt the District
8 Ten plan that will be offered here today, then
9 this presentation may be disregarded. But if
10 you choose to adopt this plan for District 18,
11 then I trust that necessary revisions will be
12 made that will give each one of these
13 representatives an opportunity to serve the
14 people within the district and let the people
15 decide. Thank you.

16 MR. OLAN REEVES: Who wants to go next?

17 MR. BENNY PETRUS: I will go next. Thank
18 you all. I won't be as hard as that one there.

19 I have got a couple of petitions here I would
20 like for you all to look at.

21 I am Benny Petrus, 3169 Highway 165 South
22 in DeWitt. I gave you all a couple
23 of petitions form the people in Point Duluth
24 Township. And basically, our argument that we
25 would like for you all to consider is to take

1 us out of your proposed 14 and put us in 12.

2 And the main reason for that, over the
3 last 20 years, the last ten years you have sent
4 the epicenter of Point Duluth Township to
5 Phillips County. The ten years before, that
6 you sent the epicenter to Chicot County and
7 Desha County. There at Point Duluth, we sit
8 there and look at the lights of DeWitt, see the
9 football stadium, everything else, but our
10 representative is way over in another area.

11 And Arkansas County is a little bit unique
12 with the two major rivers. I mean, we have got
13 the White and we do have the Arkansas. So, it
14 is only 250 people, but it 250 people that
15 think it is our turn to be represented in that
16 area. So, ask you to just take strong
17 consideration. If you add the 250 to the
18 proposed 12, it puts you well within your slot
19 limits of what we ask, so it is not real
20 controversial from anybody. So, just your
21 consideration will be greatly appreciated.

22 MR. OLAN REEVES: We have actually looked
23 at that proposition.

24 MR. LARRY CRANE: Yes. The numbers were.

25 MR. OLAN REEVES: Yes. And I think you

1 mean from 12 to 14.

2 MR. BENNY PETRUS: Number 12 to 14,
3 right.

4 MR. OLAN REEVES: You are in 12 now,
5 and you want to go to 14?

6 MR. BENNY PETRUS: Right. We would
7 like to go to 14. That puts us well within our
8 slot.

9 MR. OLAN REEVES: We have actually looked
10 to see if the numbers work, and I think they do
11 work, it is just 250 people.

12 MR. LARRY CRANE: This draft shows it
13 right here.

14 MR. BENNY PETRUS: You all have been very
15 helpful, and your staffs. I tell you, you
16 all's staffs, when I have called up there for
17 information, they were just -- they were
18 wonderful, they would get stuff to us. And
19 again, I appreciate everybody helping us,
20 because I know I have bugged you to death, but
21 we do appreciate it.

22 MR. OLAN REEVES: Next?

23 MR. JIM CRIDER: Thank you very much, and
24 it is a pleasure to be here. My name is Jim
25 Crider, and I am president and CEO of the

1 Economic Development Alliance of Jefferson
2 County. I reside at Number 16 West Ridge Drive
3 here in Pine Bluff, Arkansas for the past three
4 weeks now. So, I still look at my wristwatch
5 whenever someone asks me how long I have been
6 here.

7 It is a pleasure to be here before
8 the Board of Apportionment, Governor and
9 distinguished members of this Board. And
10 I want to make a couple of comments, of course,
11 about the bill -- the plan as it is laid out.
12 The Economic Development Alliance counts
13 Jefferson County's legislative delegation as an
14 effective partner in the economic progress
15 achieved in the past years.

16 Each member of the delegation serves
17 an important role in helping us reach our goals
18 for our county. Under your draft redistricting
19 plan, Jefferson County will lose a member of
20 that delegation since the draft plan places two
21 incumbents in the same House legislative
22 district. The Economic Development Alliance of
23 Jefferson County is seeking the opportunity to
24 retain the same number of representatives in
25 the House as we have had during our past decade

1 of success.

2 The Alliance supports the revised
3 House Legislative District Plan Number Ten that
4 I placed before you, as -- before coming to the
5 microphone. While we -- the revised plan would
6 not guarantee a Jefferson County
7 representative, it would give Jefferson County
8 residents the opportunity to keep the same
9 number in our delegation. The plan would also
10 benefit our Southeast Arkansas neighbors
11 by keeping both the City of Monticello
12 and Cleveland County within one district.

13 We believe that the revised House District
14 Plan Number Ten would be the most beneficial
15 plan for this area. Thank you for the
16 opportunity to make this comment.

17 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: Thank you.

18 MR. OLAN REEVES: Thank you. Who wants to
19 be next?

20 MR. SONNY COX: I will be next. Since
21 Arkansas starts with an "A", is it first in
22 line? I am Sonny Cox, I am a county judge out
23 of Arkansas County, and I do want to quell a
24 rumor about our Governor's knee. The roads in
25 Arkansas County are better than they are in

1 some other counties, and it is a rumor that he
2 got stuck on one of the county roads and had to
3 walk in the mud and twist his knee. I believe
4 that was in another county, Governor.

5 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: It was, it was in
6 Jackson County.

7 MR. SONNY COX: Oh, okay. I just wanted
8 to make sure that we got that straight about
9 his twisted knee, anyway.

10 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: It wasn't on the
11 road, Judge.

12 MR. SONNY COX: Oh, okay.

13 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: It was in mud in
14 the middle of a creek.

15 MR. SONNY COX: Oh, okay. But anyway,
16 I am here today to make a suggestion. And
17 Arkansas County, as Benny said, is a very
18 unique county. It is 1,035 square miles, huge
19 county, has two major cities and several small
20 cities. And my suggestion is pretty simple.
21 There is a small part in our proposed district,
22 which is Senate District 28, there is a small
23 part of Pulaski County that is included in this
24 Senate district. But our second major city in
25 Arkansas County, which is DeWitt, and is also

1 the county seat of Arkansas County, there are
2 two. We have two of everything. We have two
3 county seats, two courthouses, and et cetera.
4 So, DeWitt has been left out of this Senate
5 district.

6 I think it is in the best interest of the
7 people of Arkansas County and DeWitt and
8 Stuttgart, especially, we would love to see all
9 of Arkansas County in the same Senate district,
10 but we realize we are such a huge geographical
11 area that that might be hard to do. There are
12 approximately a thousand people in that small
13 part over in Pulaski County, but we will be
14 adding about 4,000 around the DeWitt area.

15 That would put both major cities,
16 both county seats in the same Senate district
17 area with Lonoke and Prairie County. And I am
18 not sure how you can accomplish that, but that
19 is what we are asking, that you try your best
20 to leave the two major cities in Arkansas
21 County in Senate District 28. And your staff
22 has been great, and I appreciate the
23 opportunity to speak here this morning.

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Judge, while
25 you are here, let me ask about the House side.

1 You have mentioned, have you looked at the
2 House map?

3 MR. SONNY COX: Yes. And I agree with the
4 House side. That definitely would -- it is
5 hard, as Benny said, to be looking at the
6 football stadium lights and your representative
7 be somewhere else. And I do realize that, and I
8 strongly support that change in the House
9 district, also.

10 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: Thank you.

11 MR. SONNY COX: Thank you.

12 MR. DON PATTILLO: I am Don Pattillo, I am
13 with the Farmers & Merchants Bank in Stuttgart.

14 I would like to concur with Judge Cox's
15 remarks about reuniting DeWitt and Stuttgart in
16 one Senate district. As he has mentioned,
17 there are co-county seats, we share a community
18 college. And as I listened to the criteria
19 that you will be working on or relying on in
20 making your decision, I think there is a fit in
21 every aspect, particularly, we are economically
22 tied together, with the exception of one Friday
23 night every fall, DeWitt and Stuttgart have a
24 lot in common.

25 We depend -- our industries, particularly

1 Riceland Foods and Lennox, are a major
2 employer, and depend very much on the work
3 force coming out of DeWitt to support those
4 industries. And likewise, DeWitt looks to or
5 larger industries to supply jobs for their
6 people. And so, I hope you will look favorably
7 on Judge Cox's recommendation. In Stuttgart,
8 the Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial
9 Development Corporation, who asked me to
10 represent them today, are very much in favor of
11 this. Thank you.

12 MR. OLAN REEVES: Thank you.

13 MR. BENNY PETRUS: Benny Petrus, again. I
14 just want to concur on that right there. If I
15 can go a little bit deeper about the football
16 game, I grew up in a Rice Bird, Stuttgart, but
17 my son is a Dragon, we live in DeWitt now. So,
18 you talk about that Friday night being hard,
19 I spend half on one side and half on the other
20 side. But a lot of people in our county
21 have businesses, and I am one of them that has
22 a business both -- an automobile business both
23 in DeWitt and both in Stuttgart. It is just a
24 common trade area.

25 I mean, it is -- those rivers kind of keep

1 us all together, and there is a lot of people,
2 the tractor businesses, there is all type of
3 sorts of -- Riceland Foods and producers of
4 both big companies in our area that DeWitt and
5 Stuttgart just satellite for one another. So,
6 we would very well like to see that done, also.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. OLAN REEVES: Thank you.

9 MR. JEFF DIXON: Good morning, members of
10 the Board, Governor Huckabee, Attorney General
11 Pryor, and Secretary Priest. Thank you for the
12 opportunity to be here today. My name is Jeff
13 Dixon, I am an attorney here in Pine Bluff, I
14 live in South Pine Bluff at 1005 Fairway Drive.
15 And, again, thank you for being here. Thank
16 you for the work that you do on this Board. It
17 must -- I can only imagine that it is
18 a painstaking process.

19 And I wanted -- again, I want to
20 concur with what Mr. Crider said and also
21 support amended District Ten. I live in South
22 Pine Bluff, and I live near the north end of
23 that district. And I have several employees in
24 my office that live in Cleveland County. And
25 they are supportive of this district, as well.

1 Like Mr. Crider said, the district
2 does not result in two incumbents in Jefferson
3 County being in the same district. It allows
4 Jefferson County the opportunity, but does not
5 guarantee that we can get the same number of
6 legislators that we have now. It also gives
7 Cleveland County an opportunity to be in one
8 district for the first time in many, many
9 years. Cleveland County has been divided for a
10 long time, and because they are a rural county,
11 the chance to be in one district means a lot to
12 them.

13 I also want to say that this is not about
14 personality. It is not about any of the
15 incumbent representatives that are there now,
16 whether it be Representative Bradford, who has
17 done a fantastic job representing our -- or
18 representing the district that he is in,
19 and Representative Clemmons, who has also done
20 a fantastic job representing the district that
21 he is in, as well as Representative Taylor, who
22 has done a fantastic job. It is not about
23 personality, It is about giving a voice to the
24 people in South-Central Jefferson County and in
25 Cleveland County, as well as Lincoln and Drew.

1 Little Rock is noisy place during the
2 legislative session, as each of you know, and
3 these people would like to be heard.

4 Again, I just want to say that we want to
5 support revised District Ten. You have seen
6 the map. I have also sent a letter to each of
7 you that you will have, I mailed it yesterday.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to be here, and
9 please support that proposal.

10 MR. OLAN REEVES: Thank you. I kind of
11 feel like Bob Barker on Price is Right, "Come
12 on down." Who else wants to talk?

13 MR. P.Q. GARDNER: You know, I have
14 to take my time from Monticello to come up here
15 to speak to you lovely people today. I live in
16 Drew County. And, of course, you just heard
17 two proposals by the Alliance here in Pine
18 Bluff to take part of our area and make it into
19 their district. And I am opposed to that. We
20 lost our representative this year, and, of
21 course, Mr. Taylor was sort of pulled out of
22 this district. And that would be one way, of
23 course, to keep him. But we like to have
24 representatives, too, in Drew County.

25 Of course, Drew County and Lincoln County

1 and Cleveland County would make a real good
2 district. We don't need all of the Jefferson
3 County people coming down into our district. I
4 am just telling you like it is. So, if you
5 leave it like it is, don't take Fairview, okay.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. OLAN REEVES: Sir, what was your
8 name?

9 MR. P.Q. GARDNER: Oh, I am sorry. I
10 know these people, so I assumed everybody else
11 knew me. I am P.Q. Gardner, I live in
12 Monticello, and I serve on the Election
13 Commission. Thank you.

14 MR. OLAN REEVES: Thank you.

15 MR. BILL BRIDGFORTH: My name is Bill
16 Bridgforth, I live in Pine Bluff at Number 29
17 Long Meadow. And I am here to speak also for
18 the proposed revised District Ten. And,
19 Governor, it is always a pleasure to have you
20 here. We look forward to having you back on
21 Saturday for the dedication of the new Nature
22 Center in your honor, of which we are all
23 proud.

24 Others have and will speak of the
25 vital economic, geographic, and business

1 regions why this revised District Ten should be
2 adopted and why Jefferson County should at
3 least be a part of a district so that we can
4 maintain our present number of legislative
5 representatives. I would like to mention two
6 other reasons you may not hear about from
7 anybody else that I think speak to this and
8 indicate how important it is.

9 The first is agriculture, an area in which
10 all of us have a great interest. And I
11 certainly do. Since the beginning of Arkansas,
12 Pine Bluff and Jefferson County has been the
13 recognized center for agriculture, particularly
14 row crop agriculture, but also timber, and
15 other types of agriculture. We currently have
16 one of the largest cotton oil mills in
17 the United States. And research in aquaculture
18 here at this university is of national
19 significance.

20 What we may lack in this area in terms of
21 new people, we make up for in our areas of
22 impact on the overall quality of life in the
23 Natural State. And we must remember that the
24 agricultural part of Arkansas, of which
25 Jefferson County is a significant part,

1 contributes mightily to the economic viability
2 of all of Arkansas. It is a huge industry, and
3 Jefferson County has the experience to be its
4 most effective
5 voice.

6 Not only do we have the experience, but we
7 have the history and the tradition
8 of presenting that voice, if the representative
9 of this new district that I understand only
10 encompasses about -- an area of Jefferson
11 County with about 3,700 or 3,800 people.
12 Wherever this new representative is from, the
13 fact that Jefferson County is a part of the
14 district that individual represents will add
15 muscle and support and influence to his or her
16 remarks in the area of agriculture that might
17 be lacking otherwise.

18 The second area that I would like to speak
19 to has to do with our natural resources. As
20 you all know, I am the immediate past chairman
21 of the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. And I
22 can tell you from personal knowledge that the
23 abundance of those creatures of the wild that
24 inhabit Jefferson County and the area in this
25 proposed revised District Ten exceed the number

1 that exist in any other part of the State of
2 Arkansas.

3 While the legislature is constitutionally
4 prohibited from control over the Commission, it
5 does approve our annual budget and approves
6 personnel positions. So influence, if not
7 control, is in its hands. All of these animals
8 and birds and fish with which we share
9 this state need loud voices to speak for them,
10 as well.

11 With the new, Governor Mike Huckabee,
12 Delta Rivers Nature Center, located in
13 Pine Bluff's Regional Park, in South Arkansas,
14 Jefferson County is most uniquely poised to be
15 this needed and effective voice. Jefferson
16 County needs to remain a part of the district
17 that ensures that the opportunity to maintain
18 its present representation.

19 I urge the adoption of the revised
20 District Ten. And thank you all for your
21 attention to this horribly difficult task.
22 Thank you.

23 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: Bill, if we
24 can just get all of those fish and deer
25 to vote, we would be in good shape and

1 could get those population numbers --

2 MR. BILL BRIDGFORTH: We will vote
3 for you, Governor.

4 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: I am afraid some
5 of those critter might vote against, knowing
6 how I (inaudible).

7 MR. LARRY FREEMAN: How are you doing,
8 Governor? I would like to say I am Larry
9 Freeman, I reside here in Pine Bluff, I live at
10 405 North Cypress. I, too, have called the
11 Board of Apportionment -- reapportionment, and
12 I would like to say that the staff is doing a
13 great job. And I just have a question. And I
14 support the proposed change to District Ten,
15 and I support that. However, I do have a
16 question. And that is, how will that affect,
17 because it will affect the numbers in
18 Representative Clemmons and in Representative
19 Johnson's district?

20 And I think that while we are trying
21 to maintain the number of legislators that we
22 have that represent Jefferson County, we still
23 may end up losing, if we have got to merge
24 those districts. And I have a concern about
25 that, a very real concern, in terms of the way

1 that people have voted in the last session in
2 the state legislature, particularly when
3 someone has voted against the Daisy Bates Bill,
4 and when people have not been supportive of
5 election law reform that benefits the entire
6 state, hate crimes legislation. Governor,
7 those are very real issues, and issues that
8 affect not only just African-Americans or
9 minorities in the state, but all people in the
10 state.

11 So, I would encourage the Board to
12 continue to do what they are doing. But at the
13 same time, we need to be mindful of this plan
14 to keep the number of legislators and
15 representatives in Jefferson County, because it
16 very well may affect two other legislators that
17 are in this county, as well. And I would like
18 to thank you for your time.

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you.

20 MR. OLAN REEVES: Thank you.

21 MR. STUART SAFFER: Good morning. My name
22 is Stuart Saffer, I live in White Hall. It was
23 my intent to follow some good advice that I
24 received years ago, "Never pass up
25 an opportunity to keep your mouth shut." But

1 this last speaker kind of disturbed me. This
2 process is supposed to be based on numbers, not
3 a person's voting record.

4 And by the way, I am also the
5 registered lobbyist for the Retired
6 Officers Association for the state. And
7 I guarantee you, had our legislator put
8 Daisy Bates' birthday on Veteran's Day,
9 you would have had 280,000 of us picketing the
10 State Capitol. So, a person's voting record
11 has no bearing on this particular process. Let
12 the voters decide.

13 Now, all three representatives
14 involved, Bradford, Clemmons, and Taylor,
15 supported and co-sponsored this recent
16 legislation that we worked out to change
17 Arkansas' -- we were the first state in
18 the nation, as you know, Governor, to
19 change Arkansas' voting laws with regards
20 to military ballots.

21 And our position is, we like to
22 support those that support our goals. So, what
23 I am suggesting is that the proposed change
24 that the Alliance has proposed is the one that
25 we would like you to look at. We have no

1 objection, if the voters want to vote somebody
2 out of office that has supported our goals and
3 our legislation. But we do have an objection
4 if it is done with the stroke of a pen, as is
5 the case in the House draft as presented it.

6 So, we support Number Ten. And I
7 would like for a reiteration, if it is
8 possible, from the lawyer. Any time I can talk
9 to a lawyer for free, I like. This is based on
10 numbers and not a post-person's voting record,
11 or to try and accomplish something with the
12 numbers. This is what the concerns were voiced
13 earlier, that it was retribution against Taylor
14 for his voting record, and it has surfaced
15 again here. So, would you reiterate for us,
16 if you don't mind, sir, the rules of this game?

17 MR. OLAN REEVES: It is -- you start
18 off with the numbers, and then you look
19 at communities of interest, you look at
20 conserving political subdivisions, voting
21 rights, Section Two of the Voting Rights Act,
22 all of those things that I said prior.

23 MR. MEL CURTIS JACKSON: Good morning. My
24 name is Mel Curtis Jackson, from Wilmot,
25 Arkansas in Drew County. I reside at P.O. Box

1 283, Wilmot, Arkansas. My concern is about,
2 Mr. Gardner pointed it out, in Drew County
3 about bringing Pine Bluff down in our area. In
4 other words, ten or 15 years ago, you all
5 didn't know where we were in that instance.
6 Also, in taking Wilmot, Green Hill, and moving
7 them in with a voting district down in Ashley
8 County, which we love Ashley County, we got no
9 quarrels with them, but we are more familiar
10 with Monticello.

11 We would love to stay in Frankie's
12 district, or whoever the representative, if we
13 have Frankie or whoever, but we would like to
14 be familiar with the peoples that we are
15 associating with. We have a common goal down
16 there. We are trying to grow Southeast
17 Arkansas, which we call it Southeast Arkansas,
18 I guess it always stop at Pine Bluff when
19 you come this way.

20 But we would like to keep that going,
21 Governor, and Secretary of State, and Attorney
22 General, to -- so we could have something in
23 common without having trying to go out, and you
24 was just down there a few weeks ago, I-69
25 connected, and that type of thing, and see the

1 cooperation we have got down there. We would
2 like to keep that going. We don't need
3 anything to split that up. We need somebody
4 working for our area, and somebody we are going
5 to support, whatever their name may be.

6 It is just like the gentlemen pointed out
7 here a few minutes ago, both of them had a good
8 idea. It is based on shifting the numbers, we
9 all know that. Forget about the guy's record,
10 I understand that. But the shifting of the
11 numbers can affect the progress we have made
12 and the cooperation we have made in working
13 together. Bradley County and Drew County are
14 beginning to work together, and Ashley County,
15 also down in Yellow Bend, Chicot County, we are
16 involved with those people.

17 So, I would like to keep that going,
18 and keep Wilmot, as I already said, with
19 Drew County.

20 MR. OLAN REEVES: Thank you.

21 MR. DAVID BECK: Governor Huckabee,
22 Secretary Priest, Attorney General Pryor, good
23 morning. Thank you for this opportunity. I am
24 David Beck, I am the president of the White
25 Hall Chamber of Commerce, and I am alderman for

1 Ward Three for the City Council of White Hall.
2 I am here today to show my support for the
3 Jefferson County Alliance plan for House
4 District Ten.

5 There are several sound reasons for
6 supporting this plan. One, Jefferson County
7 retains its number of representatives. Two,
8 the City of Monticello is fully encompassed in
9 the district, with the other parts of Drew
10 County, makes up 38 percent of the voters
11 in that district, Jefferson County would only
12 encompass ten percent. Also, the two
13 incumbents would not be forced to run against
14 each another.

15 These issues are very local in nature. But
16 I feel this plan could have a larger impact on
17 the delta. Jefferson County has always been
18 the door to the delta, and I think that the
19 state needs a strong -- speech strong
20 leadership from Jefferson County. The revised
21 plan offers the best overall strategy for
22 helping each citizen in District Ten. I ask
23 that you give strong consideration. Thank you.

24 MR. TOMMY MAY: Governor, Secretary
25 Priest, Attorney General Pryor, thank you for

1 being here. And I will try not to bore
2 everybody by reiterating what Mr. Crider
3 and Mr. Bridgforth said about the support that
4 we have for revised House Legislative District
5 Number Ten, but I certainly do support that.

6 My name is Tommy May. I am a citizen
7 of Pine Bluff and Jefferson County, have lived
8 here for 14 years, and my address is 2111 46th
9 Street. I will tell you that I envy the task
10 that you have, and I think you have said it
11 very well. You have a challenge because the
12 law says you have a challenge, and you must
13 adhere to that.

14 But one of the things that I think
15 you said very early, and you said it very well,
16 and that was that you wanted to be as fair as
17 possible, as humanly possible as you can in
18 this process, you want to try to keep as many
19 communities and counties together as you can.
20 I think the proposal that I support does that.

21 I know that it is a challenge to do
22 what you want to do, but I have got a little
23 bit of experience in that, when I had the
24 opportunity to deal with a similar issue with
25 ball games in the State of Arkansas. It is not

1 easy, it won't be popular when you are through.

2 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: Was that a
3 controversy comment?

4 MR. TOMMY MAY: If you follow the
5 thesis statement that you started with, and
6 that is being as fair as possible in this
7 process, I really, truly believe that this
8 proposal ten is absolutely the best, because it
9 does not force incumbents to run against other
10 incumbents. And I think it makes sense. As
11 someone said earlier it does not guarantee any
12 kind of reelection when you look at a city such
13 as Monticello that would be whole, when you
14 look at some of the counties that will stay in
15 place, there are no guarantees, but it does
16 look reasonable, feasible, and fair. And we
17 thank you for that. Thank you for allowing me
18 to present my opinion.

19 MR. OLAN REEVES: Okay. Anybody else?

20 MR. JACK FOSTER: Good morning,
21 Governor Huckabee, Secretary Priest, General
22 Pryor. My name is Jack Foster, I live at 2308
23 West Bel Air here in Pine Bluff. And the
24 reason I am here to speak this morning, we have
25 heard a lot of talk this morning. And I live

1 here in Pine Bluff, in Jefferson County. We
2 have some concern about possibly losing some
3 representation. But I think we need to be real
4 about this thing.

5 Pine Bluff lost population in the last
6 census count. We cannot expect to lose
7 population and maintain the same type of
8 representation. Now, that is the real side of
9 that. It has nothing to do with how people
10 vote, it has nothing to do with race. We lost
11 people. And you have a task of trying to
12 adjust that.

13 Now, it would be nice if everybody in the
14 state that lost population would be able to
15 maintain the same representation in spite of
16 losing population. And I am going to give you
17 a little short history lesson. When a
18 community does not experience economic growth,
19 you have population loss. It is just that
20 simple, and that is what has happened to Pine
21 Bluff.

22 And what I am saying is that it is
23 unfortunate that we may lose representation,
24 but I think we need to be real about why we are
25 losing that possible representation. Thank you.

1 MR. OLAN REEVES: Thank you.

2 MR. BOBBY GLOVER: My name is Bobby
3 Glover, State Representative from Carlisle.
4 Governor Huckabee and Secretary Priest and
5 General Pryor, I appreciate well all you have
6 done in regard to the hard work that has gone
7 into this, as well as your staff. It is an
8 honor to be here before you today. I would like
9 to speak to you just briefly in regard to the
10 House district before I want to make any kind
11 of comment at all in regard to Senate District
12 28. I have not made a comment to you in that
13 regard.

14 As to the House district that now
15 puts Arkansas County and Prairie County
16 together, I certainly endorse that. And I also
17 endorse the recommendation made by Benny
18 Petrus. I think that should be -- should be
19 done, as far as adding that township. I spoke
20 to the staff representing all of you early on,
21 and told them that irrespective of the effect
22 it might have on me, that I felt that
23 DeWitt and Stuttgart should be put in the same
24 district.

25 At that time, I didn't know whether I was

1 going to be running for the House or for the
2 Senate. And they must have taken me at my
3 word, because they actually took Carlisle out
4 of that district. But even after I found that
5 out, believe it or not, I told them that I felt
6 like they were doing the right thing, and it
7 would be selfish on my part for me to do
8 likewise -- do otherwise, and put me back into
9 it, because I really feel that DeWitt and
10 Stuttgart should be in the same House district.

11 In regard to Lonoke County, as you
12 are aware, there is two House districts there,
13 and I have not heard any complaints at all in
14 regard to those two House districts. As far as
15 I know, everyone is in favor of it. So, I will
16 just simply tell you here today that in regard
17 to the Arkansas and Prairie Counties and Lonoke
18 County, as far as I am aware, we are in accord,
19 my exception would be to add the township that
20 Mr. Petrus had asked you to do.

21 In regard to Senate -- the old Senate
22 District 28, we have a little people here from
23 Arkansas County, Stuttgart, DeWitt. We have
24 the mayor of DeWitt here. Mr. Jenks, with one
25 of the banks there, the federal bank, as well

1 as others. I had told you early on in the very
2 beginning that I felt like that, of all
3 counties, all of Lonoke County should be in one
4 senatorial district.

5 And I am glad I have the opportunity
6 to speak here today, because I want my
7 colleagues to know from Jefferson County
8 and Pine Bluff, that this has nothing to
9 do with them in any way, shape, form, or
10 fashion. Because I have the highest
11 respect for them, I have served Senator Nelson,
12 Senator Gullett, Senator Bradford, Senator
13 Hankins, and Senator Edwards. And I have always
14 had a real good working relationship and good
15 rapport. So, this has nothing to do as far as
16 any reflection on these fine people under any
17 circumstances.

18 It is just that Lonoke County, as I think
19 I am right on this, they are now 12th in size
20 as far as Arkansas is concerned to the other
21 counties, over 50 some-odd thousand. It is one
22 of the fastest growing counties in the State of
23 Arkansas. It wouldn't surprise me in ten years
24 from now that we might have 75,000 people in
25 Lonoke County rather than 52,000 or 53,000. In

1 regard to Prairie County, they are very
2 satisfied with being linked up to Lonoke
3 County. Arkansas County is very satisfied with
4 being linked up with Prairie and
5 Lonoke Counties.

6 As I have stated to you previously,
7 I certainly would appreciate very much if you
8 could figure out some way to bring DeWitt into
9 the picture, as well, because I think that
10 would be the right thing to do. Thank you very
11 much.

12 MR. OLAN REEVES: Anybody else?

13 MR. CARROLL LESTER: Carroll Lester, mayor
14 of DeWitt. You have heard from all the -- the
15 Arkansas County folks, we have got a good
16 contingent, and we appreciate Representative
17 Glover's comments. We love our neighbors, we
18 love Jefferson County and Phillips County and
19 everybody else, we just don't want to -- we are
20 visiting, we are not going to get in this
21 fight.

22 We desperately need to be considered to be
23 moved on up into the District 28. We have far
24 more in common, all the criteria that Mr.
25 Reeves laid out. And we would certainly

1 appreciate that. Thank
2 you.

3 MR. FRANK WILSON: Frank Wilson from
4 Rison, Arkansas. I happen to be one of those
5 that has not had representation for the last 20
6 years. We have two townships in the northwest
7 corner of Cleburne County that has been in a
8 different district. I had met my
9 representative in the State Capitol and he
10 didn't even know me because he didn't have any
11 interest to come down and visit with me.

12 I have had to rely on friends, such as Jay
13 and Jerry to represent me. So, I would
14 propose -- I like any proposal that groups us
15 together. We have got fire -- our fire
16 department, the local volunteer fire department
17 is divided by representation. One group
18 is represented and the other group is
19 represented by another representative. So, we
20 have no flow of voice that we can make when we
21 go to our representative or nothing, we have
22 nothing like that.

23 Cleveland County is -- might have to
24 be divided, but there is more logical ways for
25 it to be divided. But it is -- but when we

1 take only two townships that has very small
2 voter, we end up not being represented at all.

3 Two townships in Drew County that carries a
4 third of the vote has a lot more influence than
5 the two townships that has less than probably
6 five percent of the vote. I don't know
7 the numbers, I am not familiar with that.

8 But I am just asking you to consider
9 grouping us in fair groups. The real truth is
10 that whether any of the representatives we have
11 got, they are going to be term limited, even if
12 we try to protect incumbents in four years.

13 So, we are not talking about incumbents,
14 we are talking about who is going to represent
15 us for the ten years. And I think that is the
16 point, that we would like you to consider that.

17 And the northwest part of Cleveland County
18 and Rison has the same interests. We have the
19 same people, we have the same county road, we
20 have the same volunteer fire department, and we
21 have all those things that makes us one. And
22 we would appreciate you all trying to consider
23 leaving us that way. Thank you.

24 MR. STANLEY SIMPSON: Good morning. I am
25 Stanley Simpson from Arkansas County, I am one

1 of the election commissioners. And I want to
2 thank you. You have got the -- we have got the
3 best thing going right now we have had in 40
4 years. We have been picked on and parceled out
5 to other people, and we have got a pretty
6 good deal going now. But we do need the
7 two things that we have asked for here to make
8 it a little better.

9 Now, we would like for all of
10 Arkansas County to be in one district, but
11 I understand the numbers. But if you could put
12 these two proposals in, it would help our
13 county and help our election process. Thank
14 you.

15 MR. HERBERT CUNNING: I would like to say
16 good morning, and I appreciate the Governor
17 coming down, and the Secretary. I just
18 recently heard about this, so I just got here a
19 few minutes ago. My name is Herbert Cunning, I
20 reside here in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. And I have
21 no particular distinction besides being a
22 father of five. And two of my sons have
23 graduated from this university, so I am very
24 proud of that.

25 I would like to say that a lot of

1 things have been said and there has been a lot
2 of consideration about a lot of things and a
3 lot of issues. I don't think anyone in their
4 right mind would want to lose representation on
5 one hand. And I think reality says that we
6 have got to do some considerations on the other
7 hand.

8 I am kind of those that supports -- I like
9 both ideas. I don't want to lose
10 representation. By the same token, I am
11 not happy with the representation that we have.

12 So, I am bad. The consideration to me is --
13 the gentleman brought up a question that wasn't
14 addressed a little bit ago. He said, if in the
15 event we do have this District Ten, what
16 happens to the existing representation? And
17 that wasn't really addressed.

18 I don't know if he was asking for an
19 immediate answer response or hypothetical, but
20 that is a thought that I think should weigh in
21 your concern, also. That is a realistic. He
22 wasn't trying to -- and I didn't get the point
23 of trying to pick something out against anybody
24 in particular. But I like that idea, what
25 does happen, or what can happen, what are the

1 possibilities? We don't want to lose
2 representation, because anybody, the more
3 representation you have, of course, your
4 numbers are going to be better. It is going to
5 be better for that particular district.

6 And, man, we need all the
7 representation we can get. But I am concerned
8 about, if we keep that way, and what not? If
9 we go with the House draft, how many -- you
10 know, you know more about what you are weighing
11 than we do. And that is where I am at. So,
12 those are the concerns we have, that we don't
13 know all the answers to everything. And at
14 some point in time, I was hoping we have a
15 situation where you can expound to us and tell
16 us exactly what both cases would incur or
17 include. And if you can do that for us, those
18 of us who are just, you know, the working
19 public.

20 If you could just tell us exactly if
21 you do one thing, what you have, all the
22 ramifications if you do one thing or the other.

23 Is that possible to address that?

24 MR. OLAN REEVES: We can't tell you
25 the number of changes today. The only numbers

1 we have are the ones that are on the draft
2 plans.

3 MR. HERBERT CUNNING: Yes, sir.

4 MR. OLAN REEVES: The other numbers,
5 we can run those, and we certainly will look at
6 that.

7 MR. HERBERT CUNNING: Okay, okay.

8 MR. OLAN REEVES: Minority incentives and
9 everybody else, as well as straight numbers,
10 how close are you to 26,000. We don't have
11 that today, because we don't have all these
12 draft maps on that computer.

13 MR. HERBERT CUNNING: Well, I
14 understand the concern everyone has about not
15 losing the voice in the House. The other thing
16 I was thinking, too, and I appreciate the
17 opportunity. Sometimes it is hard for a
18 working guy to just stop and -- and the
19 next time you have one of these, can you have
20 it like in the evening time, maybe, where more
21 of the public can be included on that? Thank
22 you.

23 MR. OLAN REEVES: Three of our meetings
24 are at night, it is just not at night in Pine
25 Bluff. There is Forrest City, Hope, Mountain

1 Home and Hot Springs, so there are four that
2 are at night.

3 MR. LAWRENCE DAVIS: Governor and members
4 of the panel, I am Lawrence Davis, I reside at
5 1501 North University, and my home is 208 West
6 34th. And we are so happy to have this hearing
7 on our campus. And thanks to you, of course,
8 Governor, and the legislators, we are able to
9 have facilities such as this. And if you have
10 a chance, I hope you drive by the campus, and
11 you will be excited about what is going on.

12 And, of course, I support the proposal of
13 the Alliance of Pine Bluff that Mr. Crider
14 mentioned, but not for the reasons that I have
15 heard. One thing that is obvious about
16 Southeast Arkansas is that our economic
17 development lags much of the other parts of the
18 state. You will notice in Jonesboro, in
19 Fayetteville, in Conway, and Russellville,
20 tremendous growth, and it has to do with the
21 fact that the institutions there, there
22 higher education institutions are thriving.

23 Equally, it should be so in
24 Southeast Arkansas. There are two
25 branches, two institutions of the University of

1 Arkansas system in the proposed district,
2 UA-Monticello and UAPB. And if anything is to
3 happen in this section of the state
4 economically, we have to be the economic
5 ending. So, I would hope that in your
6 redistricting, you would take that into
7 consideration, because we do need people there
8 in the legislature who will be advocates for
9 these two institutions so that we can make this
10 state become what it should be.

11 MR. OLAN REEVES: Anybody else?

12 MR. DUTCH KING: Good morning,
13 Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney
14 General. I am Dutch King, I live in Pine
15 Bluff, Arkansas, 3721 Poplar. And I am
16 here just to ask that you give due respect to
17 our request for District Number Ten. What is
18 politics about? There are no guarantees in
19 life, much less politics. District Ten
20 guarantees no one, other than giving an
21 opportunity to have a chance to serve our city,
22 our county, and our state.

23 To me, what this is about, people who have
24 been dedicated and loyal to our city, our
25 state, and our county. We here in Pine Bluff

1 love Pine Bluff, we love Jefferson County, and
2 we love the State of Arkansas. And all we were
3 asking is you to honor our request and give us
4 an opportunity to elect the people that we
5 want to serve us in our district. Thank you.

6 MR. OLAN REEVES: Okay. There is
7 nobody else, I will pass it over to the
8 Governor.

9 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: We will
10 have closing comments now from the Secretary of
11 State and Attorney General and myself. And I
12 will start with Secretary of State Priest.

13 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Thank
14 you, Governor. Again, I would like to thank
15 all of you for being here and expressing your
16 opinions and your desires of how you would like
17 to be represented. Somebody said it earlier,
18 it is usually in my opening remarks, this is
19 not a two-year plan, it is not a four-year
20 plan, it is a ten-year plan. And you need to be
21 the guardians of how you are going to be
22 represented for the next ten years.

23 I want to also take this time to thank the
24 staff from the Governor's office, the Attorney
25 General's office, and my office. They really

1 have worked hard, many, many hours, listening
2 to very many people, trying to move lines and
3 adjust lines and to try to please everybody in
4 the process. So, we have had an opportunity to
5 exercise democracy today, being involved in
6 part of that opportunity, and it is a wonderful
7 opportunity that we enjoy in this state and in
8 this country. Thank you.

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: I want
10 to just thank you all for being here. Again,
11 thanks to UAPB for hosting this. This is a
12 very nice facility. I can't wait to sit down
13 with staff and talk about this proposed
14 District Ten and see how the numbers work and
15 see how it does impact others. I think Larry
16 Freeman mentioned that, how does this impact
17 other districts around? I can assure you we
18 will look at that and give every consideration.

19 And I just appreciate you all being here,
20 because this is democracy in action, that we
21 all have the right of input in designing our
22 own state House and Senate districts, and how
23 our representative districts will look. And
24 that is one of the great things about this
25 state and this country. I just want to thank

1 you all for being here, appreciate you all's
2 time.

3 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: On behalf of all
4 of the Board of Apportionment, we do genuinely
5 thank you. And it may appear that this is all
6 a done-deal and this exercise today was nothing
7 more than an exercise in futility. Let me
8 assure you, that is not the case. We really
9 are sincerely listening to what is being said
10 in these meetings, taking it to the heart, and
11 trying to adjust these drafts so that we can
12 take into consideration the very strong and
13 often passionate viewpoints that we hear.

14 I think Sharon Priest said earlier
15 something that I wanted to reiterate. All of
16 us, too, are elected officials. Believe this
17 or not, I know some of you find this amazing.
18 We really don't wake up every morning and
19 figure out, "How can we make some people mad
20 today?" I have always said, the number one
21 rule in politics is, you have got to make ten
22 new friends a day because you are going to lose
23 seven by something you say or do.

24 But the fact is, it is not an
25 effort on our part to see if we can just

1 arbitrarily punch people's buttons and get them
2 mad at us. We would like to please everybody.

3 But ultimately, we have to please the
4 Constitution, and that is the one thing that we
5 all swore to do, more than any other one thing.

6 And the context of that is where we are going
7 to try to come back and take seriously every
8 comment we have had today.

9 I want to thank you, because they
10 have been helpful, reasonable, in many
11 cases very compelling, and I think, most
12 of all, very respectful of the process
13 and those of us who have participated in
14 this all too difficult and not too perfect an
15 endeavor, you have given a lot of your
16 time this morning, some have even driven great
17 distances to be here, and we especially
18 appreciate that.

19 Let me just say that if you end up liking
20 the results of what we have done, I will be
21 happy to take credit. If you don't, it was
22 these guys, they did it, (indicating), and I am
23 sorry, I couldn't fix it. I wish it were so
24 easy. Again, thank you very much. We
25 appreciate your coming. Hope you have a

1 wonderful day. And we will get a map to you
2 real soon.

3 (WHEREUPON, at 11:44 a.m., the taking
4 of the above-entitled proceeding was
5 concluded.)

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SIGN-IN SHEETS.

MAPS.

T.J. ROWELL ATTACHMENT.

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
) ss.:
 COUNTY OF PULASKI)

I, DONNA K. PETRE, Certified Court Reporter and notary public in and for the County of Pulaski, State of Arkansas, duly commissioned and acting, do hereby certify that the above-entitled proceedings were taken by me in Stenotype, and were thereafter reduced to print by means of computer-assisted transcription, and the same truly, and correctly reflects the proceedings had.

WHEREFORE, I have subscribed my signature and affixed my notarial seal as such notary public at the City of Little Rock, County of Pulaski, State of Arkansas, this the 27th day of July, 2001.

DONNA K. PETRE, CCR
 NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
 PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 LS CERTIFICATE #125

My Commission Expires:
 August 4, 2010.

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